

**From:** Lynn Pye  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 10:13am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

As a citizen of the United States I am very disappointed with the remedy that had been proposed for the Microsoft settlement. The settlement is intended to accomplish two goals, punishing Microsoft for its behavior and assisting those who might benefit from the proposal. Unfortunately, the settlement, as proposed, accomplishes neither goal.

First, the proposal helps Microsoft more than punishing it. Microsoft has sufficient cash on hand to not have to accrue any debt to fulfill the spirit of the proposal, which was to cost Microsoft \$1 billion in cash. However, even this was not accomplished as Microsoft was attributing the retail price of their own software toward the fulfillment of the settlement fund requirements. This is at pennies on the dollar given that they can duplicate the software on CD's at the cost of less than \$1 per CD for a software package that can cost \$200. In addition, their software would have been forced onto a market which currently is not deeply penetrated by Microsoft.

Second, those who are supposed to benefit from this settlement, the schools, won't. The costs are for the initial purchase of software and for a few years of licensing. Afterwards, the software must be relicensed, said cost to be expended by the schools. Given that they would have had to switch their processes over to the Microsoft software and become reliant on that software, relicensing would have been necessary or additional expenditure would be necessary to switch away from Microsoft. Most business today stay with Microsoft, in spite of the fees, because the short term cost of switching away is not palatable.

I strongly recommend rethinking the proposal such that those who are to be punished, be punished. Those who need help, should be helped. But please don't confuse politics with justice. They are rarely to be found in happy union.

Lynn Pye

---

Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.  
Checked by AVG anti-virus system (<http://www.grisoft.com>).  
Version: 6.0.317 / Virus Database: 176 - Release Date: 1/21/2002